DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON
JORGE CORONA
MIKE SPICER
TRANSFORMERS
image
#12

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWELVE

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON
WRITER

JORGE CORONA
ARTIST

MIKE SPICER
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

COVERS

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON & MIKE SPICER
JORGE CORONA & MIKE SPICER
KAREN S. DARBOE
CHRIS STEVENS
CORY WALKER
SKAN SRISUWAN
LIVIO RAMONDELLI
JOHN GIANG
MEL MILTON
JUAN GEDEON
DAN QUINTANA
TIAGO DA SILVA

BEN ABERNATHY
EDITOR

ANDRES JUAREZ
PUBLICATION DESIGN

ASHBY FLORENCE
PRODUCTION

Licensed by:

Special thanks to Hasbro's Ed Lane, Michael Cohn, Linda Lee & Tayla Reo for their invaluable assistance.

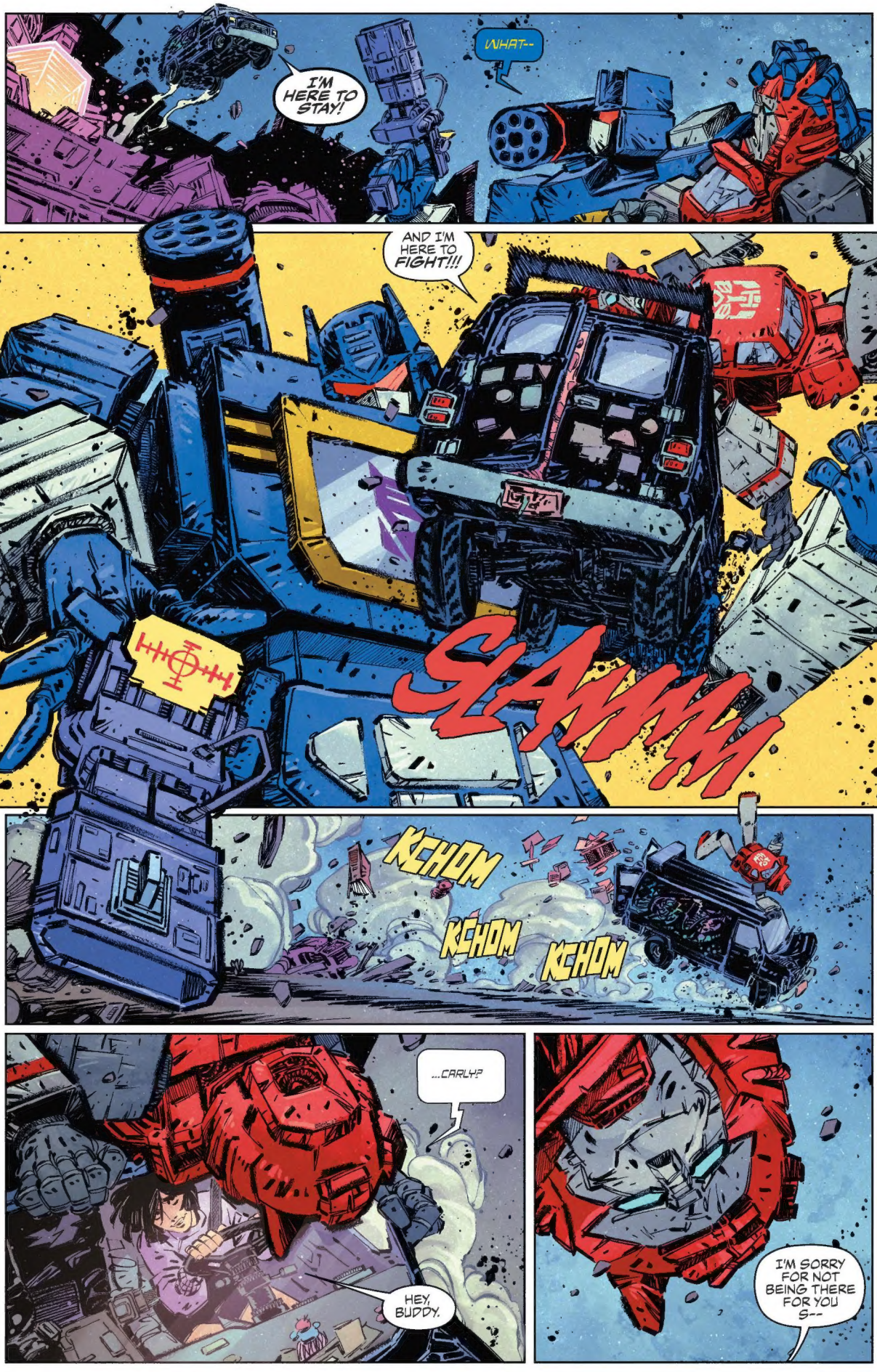
FOR SKYBOUND ENTERTAINMENT: ROBERT KIRKMAN *CHAIRMAN* | DAVID ALPERT *CEO* | SEAN MACKIEWICZ *SVP, PUBLISHER* | ANDRES JUAREZ *CREATIVE DIRECTOR, EDITORIAL* | ARUNE SINGH *VP, BRAND, EDITORIAL* | SHANNON MEEHAN *SENIOR PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER* | ALEX ANTONE *EDITORIAL DIRECTOR* | BEN ABERNATHY *EXECUTIVE EDITOR* | BLAKE KOBASHIGAWA *SENIOR DIRECTOR, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, EDITORIAL* | JILLIAN CRAB *GRAPHIC DESIGNER* | ASHBY FLORENCE *PRODUCTION ARTIST* | RICHARD MERCADO *PRODUCTION ARTIST* | ALEX HARGETT *DIRECTOR OF BRAND, EDITORIAL* | SARAH CLEMENTS *BRAND COORDINATOR, EDITORIAL* | GREG FOREMAN *SR. CROWDFUNDING MANAGER* | DAN PETERSEN *SENIOR DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS & EVENTS* | Foreign Rights & Licensing Inquiries: foreignlicensing@skybound.com | SKYBOUND.COM

FOR IMAGE COMICS, INC: ROBERT KIRKMAN *CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER* | ERIK LARSEN *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER* | TODD MCFARLANE *PRESIDENT* | MARC SILVESTRI *CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER* | JIM VALENTINO *VICE PRESIDENT* | ERIC STEPHENSON *PUBLISHER / CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER* | NICOLE LAPALME *VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE* | LEANNA CAUNTER *ACCOUNTING ANALYST* | SUE KORPELA *ACCOUNTING & HR MANAGER* | MARGOT WOOD *VICE PRESIDENT OF BOOK MARKET SALES* | LORELEI BUNJES *VICE PRESIDENT OF DIGITAL STRATEGY* | DIRK WOOD *VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL SALES & LICENSING* | RYAN BREWER *INTERNATIONAL SALES & LICENSING MANAGER* | ALEX COX *DIRECTOR OF DIRECT MARKET SALES* | CHLOE RAMOS *BOOK MARKET & LIBRARY SALES MANAGER* | EMILIO BAUTISTA *DIGITAL SALES COORDINATOR* | JON SCHLAFFMAN *SPECIALTY SALES COORDINATOR* | KAT SALAZAR *VICE PRESIDENT OF PR & MARKETING* | DEANNA PHELPS *MARKETING DESIGN MANAGER* | DREW FITZGERALD *MARKETING CONTENT ASSOCIATE* | HEATHER DOORNINK *VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION* | DREW GILL *ART DIRECTOR* | IAN BALDESSARI *PRINT MANAGER* | MELISSA GIFFORD *CONTENT MANAGER* | ERIKA SCHNATZ *SENIOR PRODUCTION ARTIST* | WESLEY GRIFFITH *PRODUCTION ARTIST* | RICH FOWLKS *PRODUCTION ARTIST* | IMAGECOMICS.COM

TRANSFORMERS #12. SEPTEMBER 2024. PUBLISHED BY IMAGE COMICS, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: PO BOX 14457, PORTLAND, OR 97293. TRANSFORMERS AND HASBRO AND ALL RELATED TRADEMARKS AND LOGOS ARE TRADEMARKS OF HASBRO, INC. ©2024 HASBRO. IMAGE COMICS® AND ITS LOGOS ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS AND COPYRIGHTS OF IMAGE COMICS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS (EXCEPT FOR SHORT EXCERPTS FOR REVIEW PURPOSES) WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION OF IMAGE COMICS, INC. ALL NAMES, CHARACTERS, EVENTS AND LOCALES IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE ENTIRELY FICTIONAL. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS (LIVING OR DEAD), EVENTS OR PLACES, WITHOUT SATIRIC INTENT, IS COINCIDENTAL. DIGITAL EDITION.

OH NO...
CLIFF!
DECEPTICONS!
LET US BE DONE WITH THIS AUTOBOT BUGHT--
CHEE
CHOPCHK
CHAK
CHEE

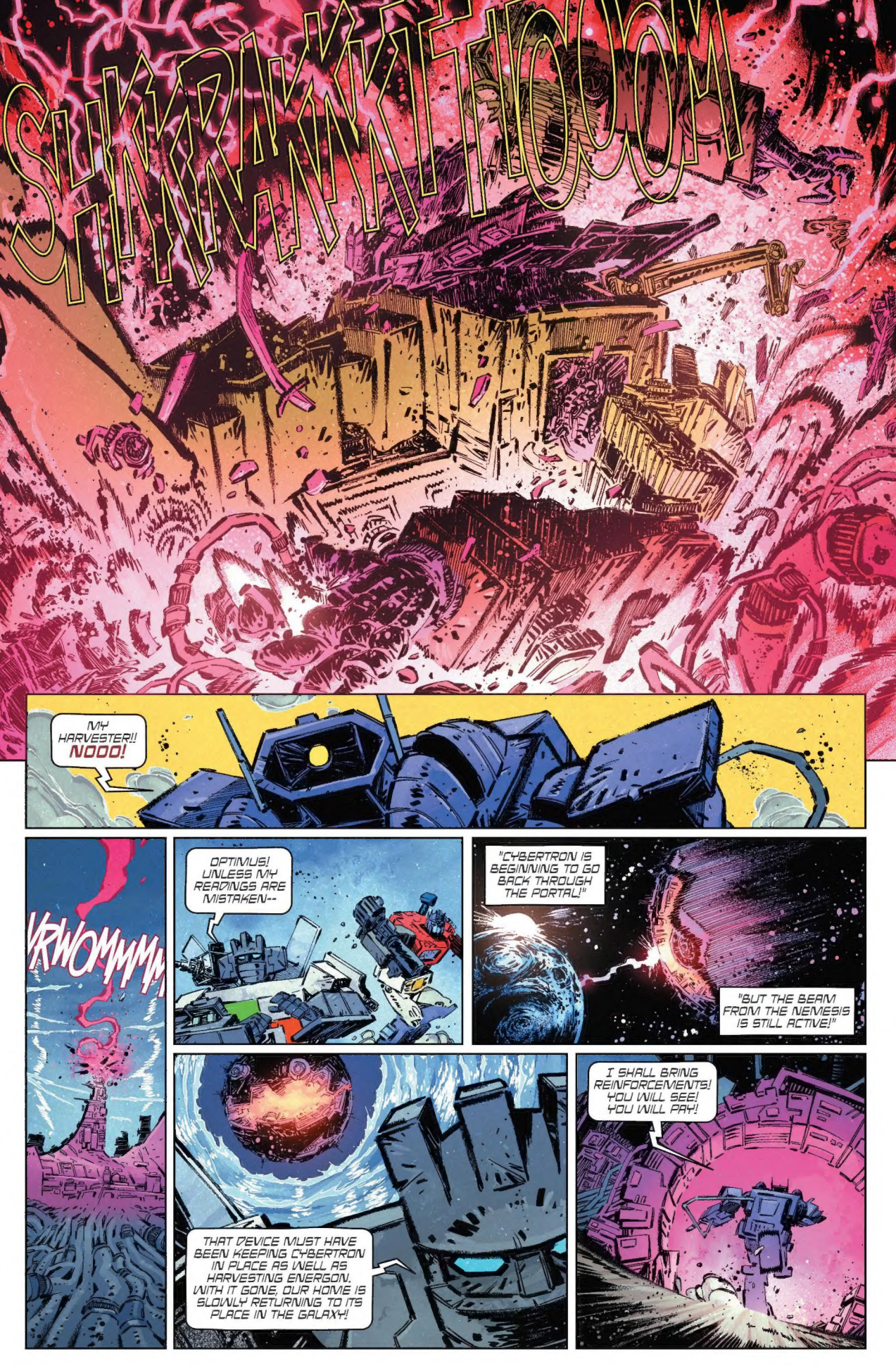
--FOREVER!
WHAT HAPPENED TO MAGNUS???!
PEEW
PEEW PEEW
I DO NOT KNOW!
WE'RE IN THE CIRCLE PIT NOW!
CHKT
PRND21
CHAK
VRRRR
RRRRRRRK
VROOOOOO
OPTIMUS, ARE YOU STILL CONNECTED TO THE CHARGES?
EUTA SET THEM, BUT I CAN'T BLOW THE NEMESIS WITH CUFFJUMPER SO CLOSE--
WHEN ARE YOU ALL GONNA LEARN??


I'M HERE TO STAY!
WHAT--
AND I'M HERE TO FIGHT!!!
SLAMM
KCHOM
KCHOM
KCHOM
...CARLY?
HEY, BUDDY.
I'M SORRY FOR NOT BEING THERE FOR YOU S--

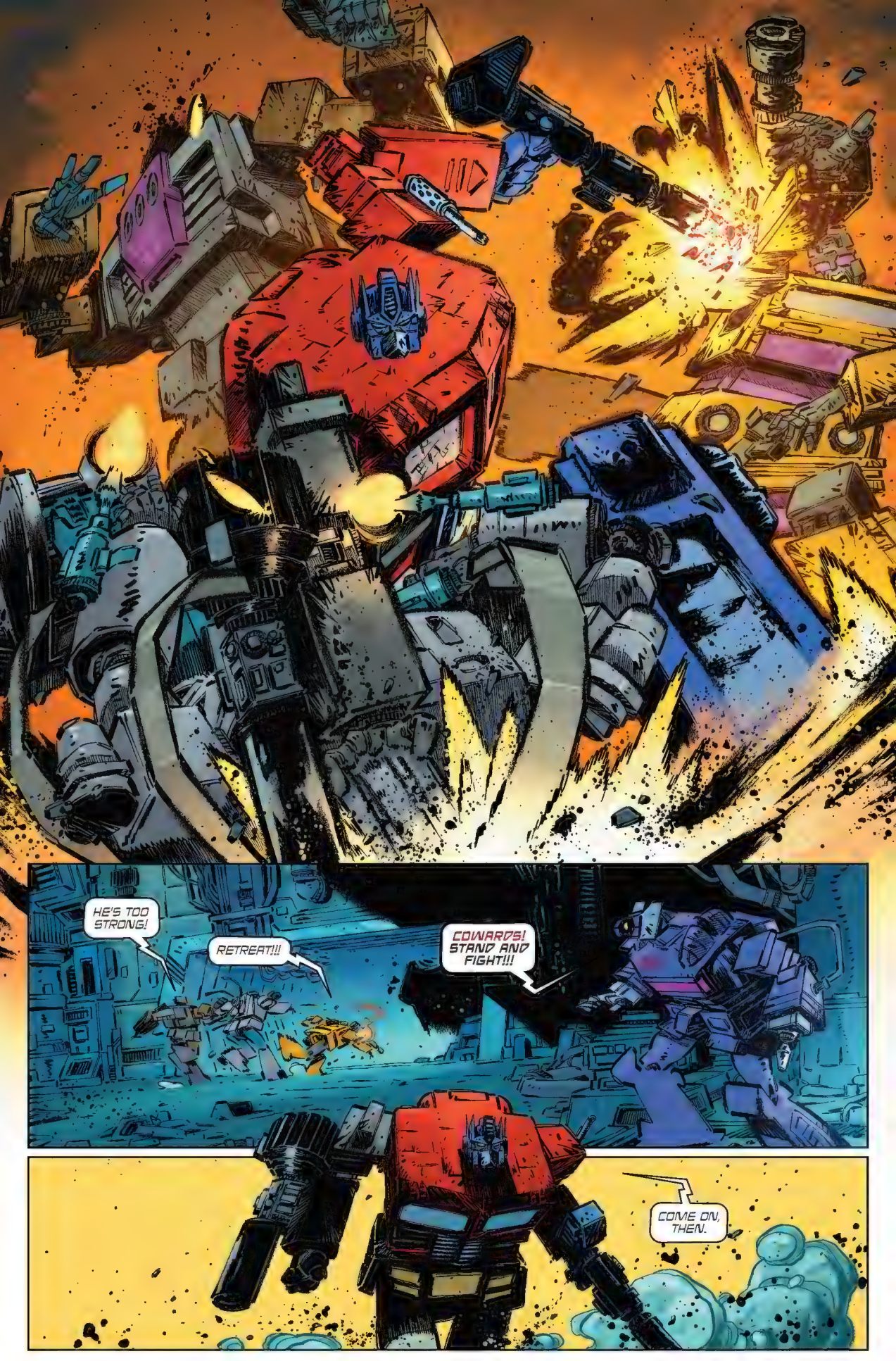
GYAH!!!
SKUSHH
AUTOBOTS! WHILE THEY'RE DISTRACTED! LET'S GET OUR FALLEN BROTHER!
CHARGE!!!
KA-KEE-KAH
HURRY! GET OUT--
SKREEUNK
TOSS!
NO!
MY ARM! IT'S-- STUCK--!

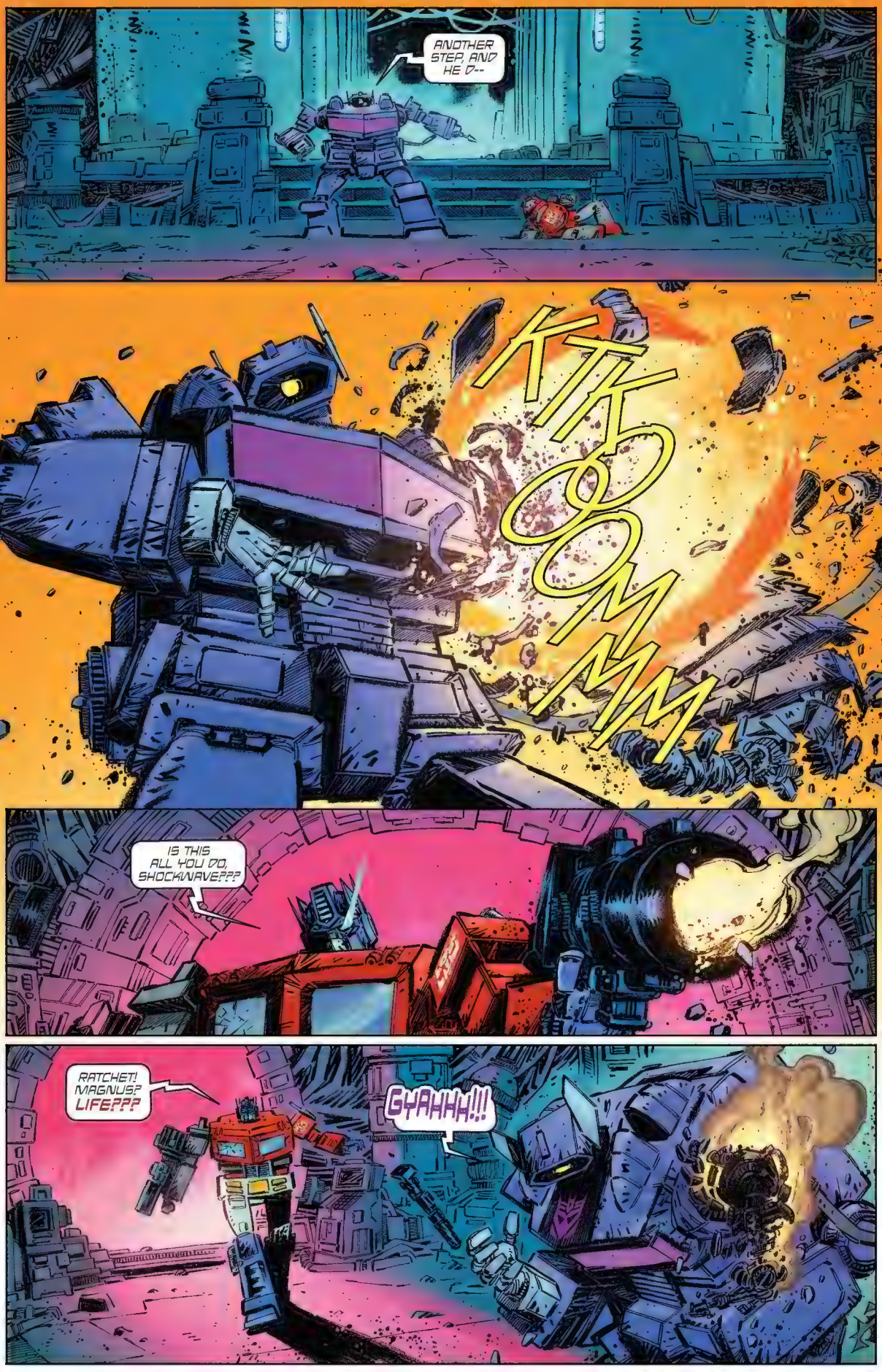
AUTOBOT BRAT!!!
KICK
YEOW!
CLIFFJUMPER!
SH WO MM M
COMBATICONS! LET'S GET INTO THE AC--
BOOMMMM

HAHA!
NOW, ELITA!
WOW
POOM
VRRRR
K-CHINK!
NO--
RRRRRR

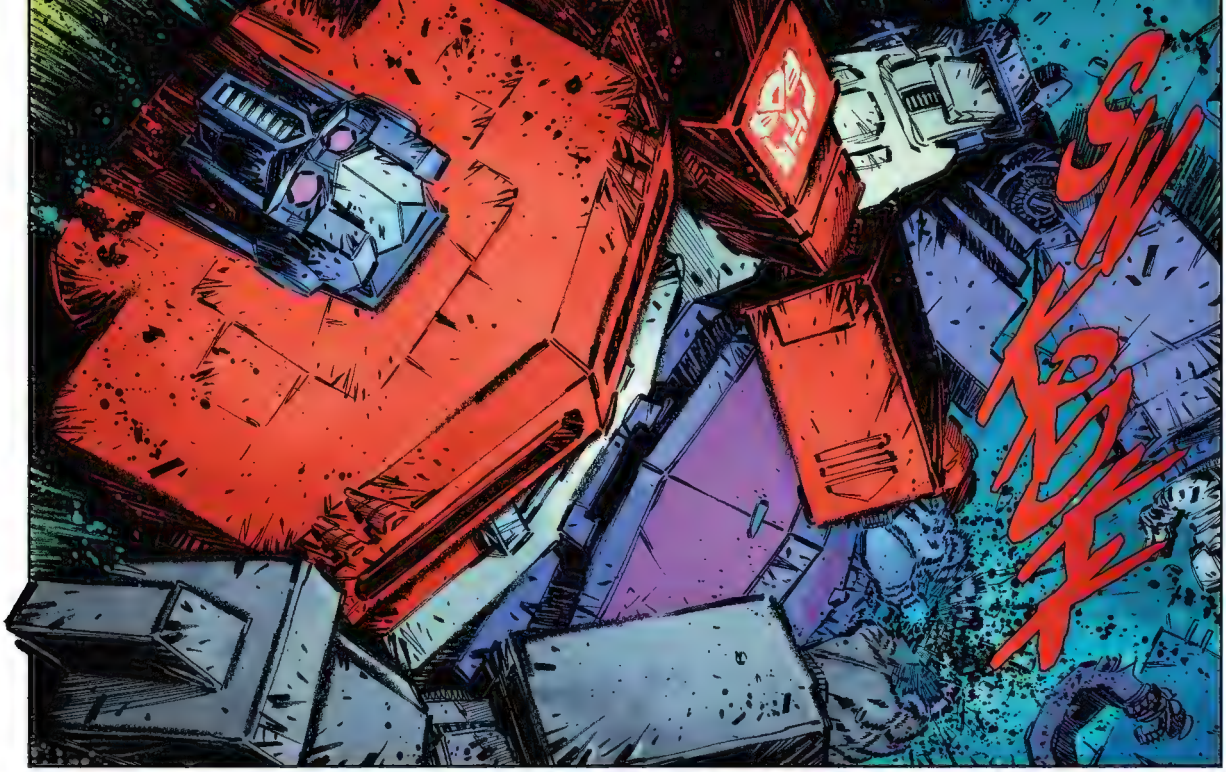

SLIKKRAKKITHOOM
MY HARVESTER!! NOOO!
VRWOMMMM
OPTIMUS! UNLESS MY READINGS ARE MISTAKEN--
"CYBERTRON IS BEGINNING TO GO BACK THROUGH THE PORTAL!"
"BUT THE BEAM FROM THE NEMESIS IS STILL ACTIVE!"
THAT DEVICE MUST HAVE BEEN KEEPING CYBERTRON IN PLACE AS WELL AS HARVESTING ENERGON. WITH IT GONE, OUR HOME IS SLOWLY RETURNING TO ITS PLACE IN THE GALAXY!
I SHALL BRING REINFORCEMENTS! YOU WILL SEE! YOU WILL PAY!

CLIFF! HE--
I SAW, CARLY!
OPTIMUS--THE CHARGES! WE COULD SEND CYBERTRON BACK COMPLETELY, RIGHT NOW!
AND I WILL, WHEELJACK. BUT IT WAS ME THAT LEFT JAZZ AND CLIFFJUMPER BEHIND.
BUT--
I WILL NOT LEAVE HIM AGAIN!
THEN DO AWAY WITH THIS PEST, AND LET'S GET BACK TO BUS--
UH, GUYS...
OH, SH--


HE'S TOO STRONG!
RETREAT!!!
COWARDS! STAND AND FIGHT!!!
COME ON, THEN.

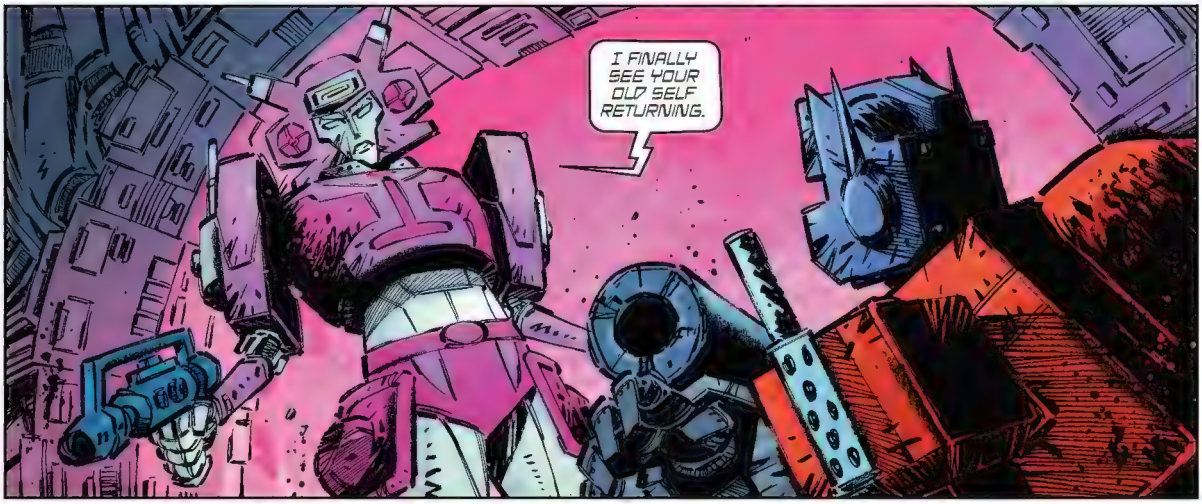

ANOTHER STEP, AND HE D--
KRAKOOM
IS THIS ALL YOU DO, SHOCKWAVE???
RATCHET! MAGNUS? LIFE???
GYAHHH!!!

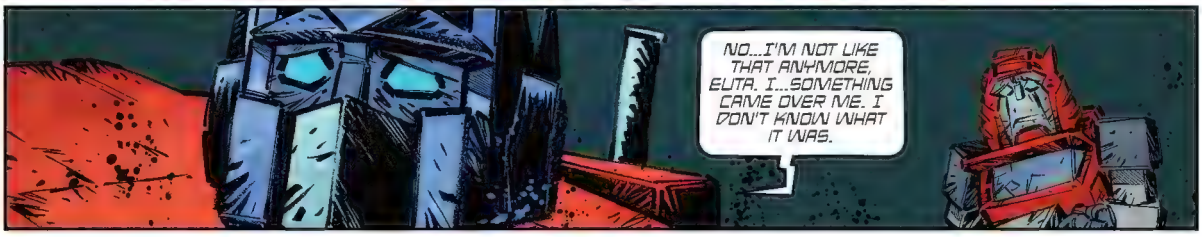
ALL YOU DO IS TAKE AWAY WHAT IS GOOD!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
GYAH!!!
BRAAAAAA
GAHHH!!!
G-GKKKK--
KKKK--
KRAK

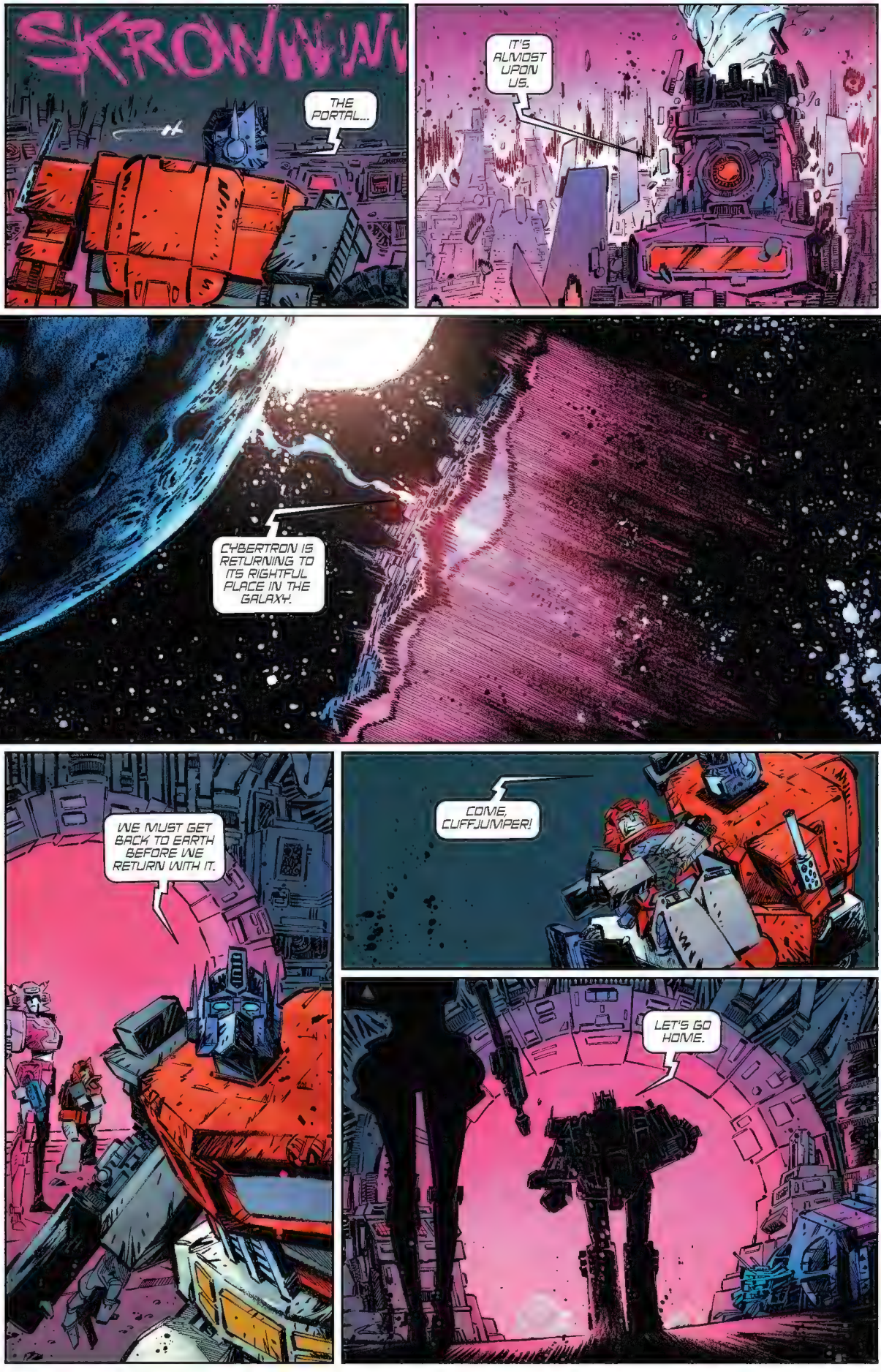

SW
KBE

I...
OPTIMUS?

WHAT... HAVE I DONE...?
WELCOME BACK TO THE WAR, OPTIMUS PRIME.

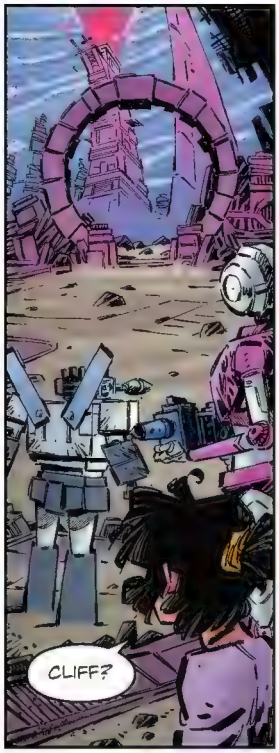

I FINALLY SEE YOUR OLD SELF RETURNING.

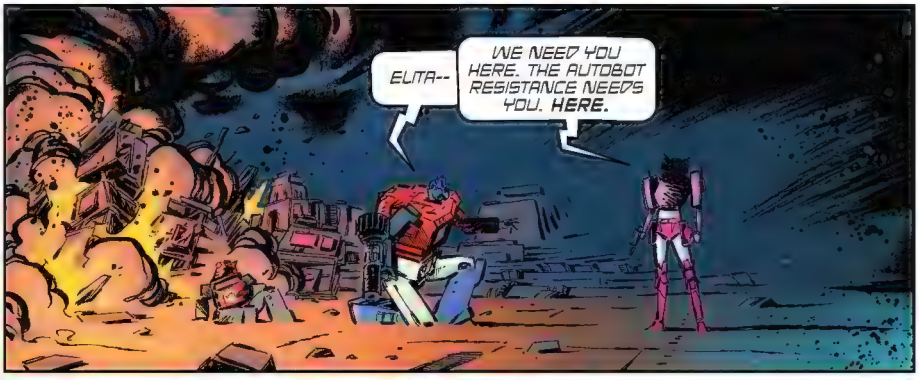

NO...I'M NOT LIKE THAT ANYMORE, EUTA. I...SOMETHING CAME OVER ME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS.

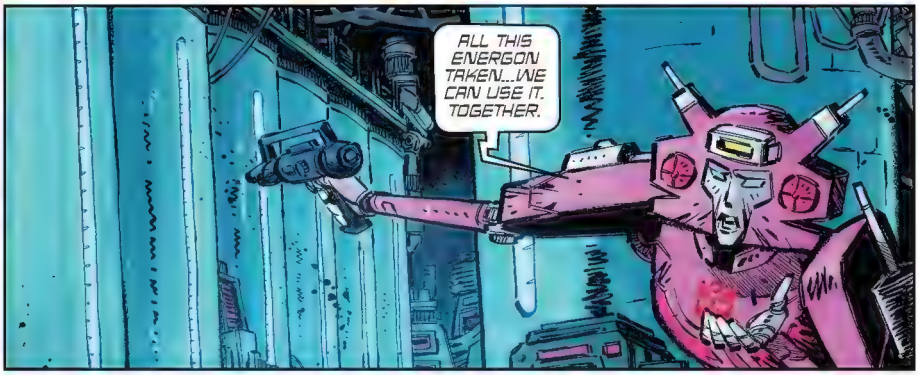

SKRONWW
THE PORTAL...
IT'S ALMOST UPON US.
CYBERTRON IS RETURNING TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE GALAXY.
WE MUST GET BACK TO EARTH BEFORE WE RETURN WITH IT.
COME, CUFFJUMPER!
LET'S GO HOME.

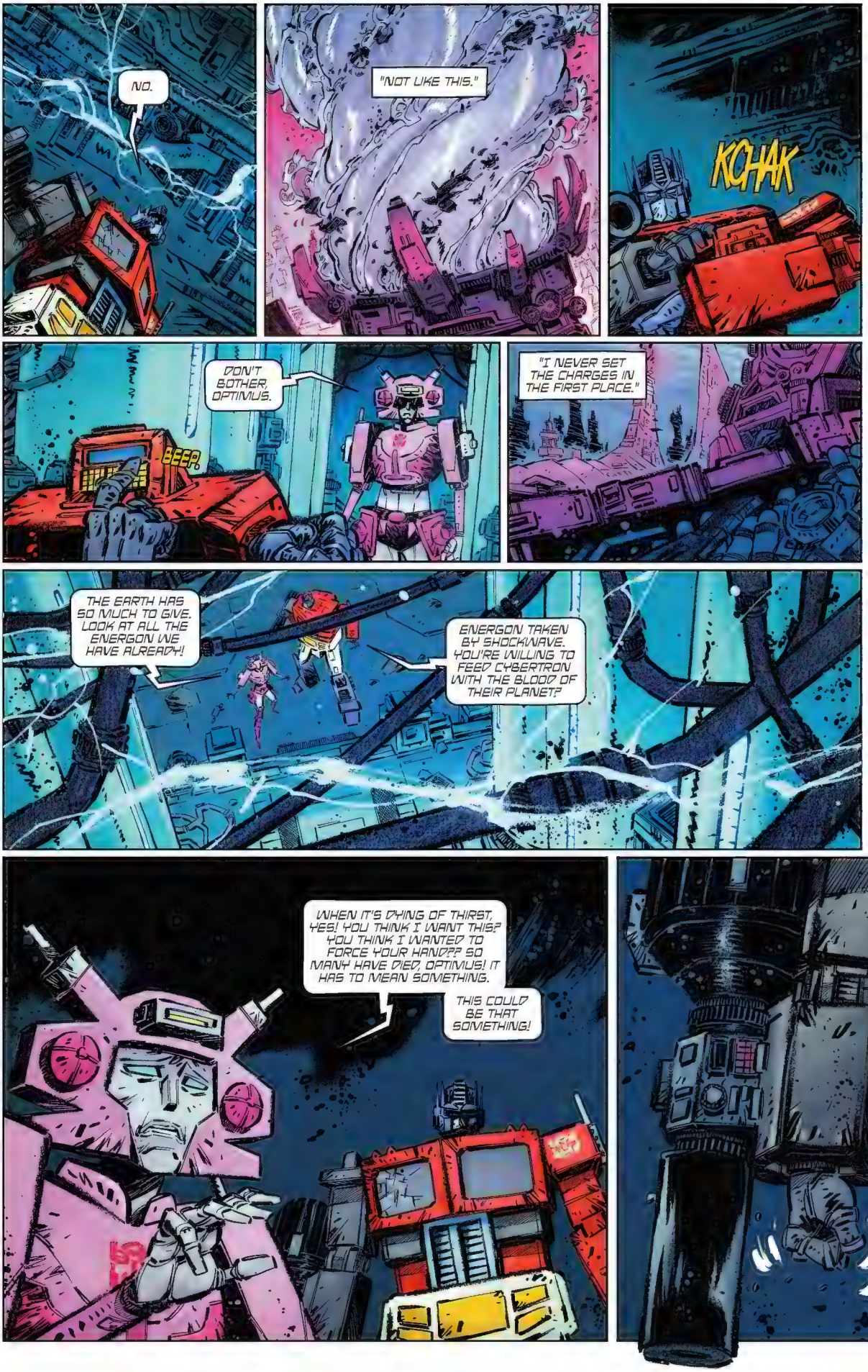
K-KOM

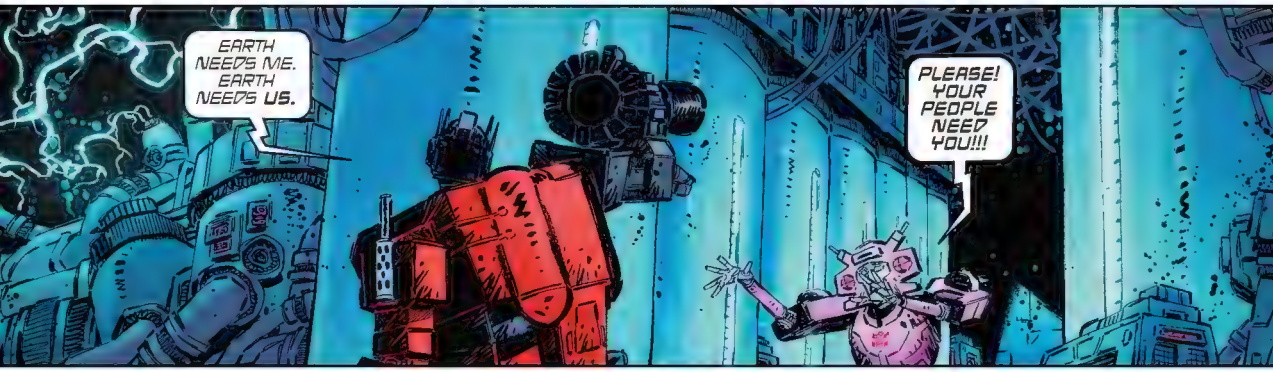
YOU ARE HOME, OPTIMUS.
ELITA--WHAT--?!

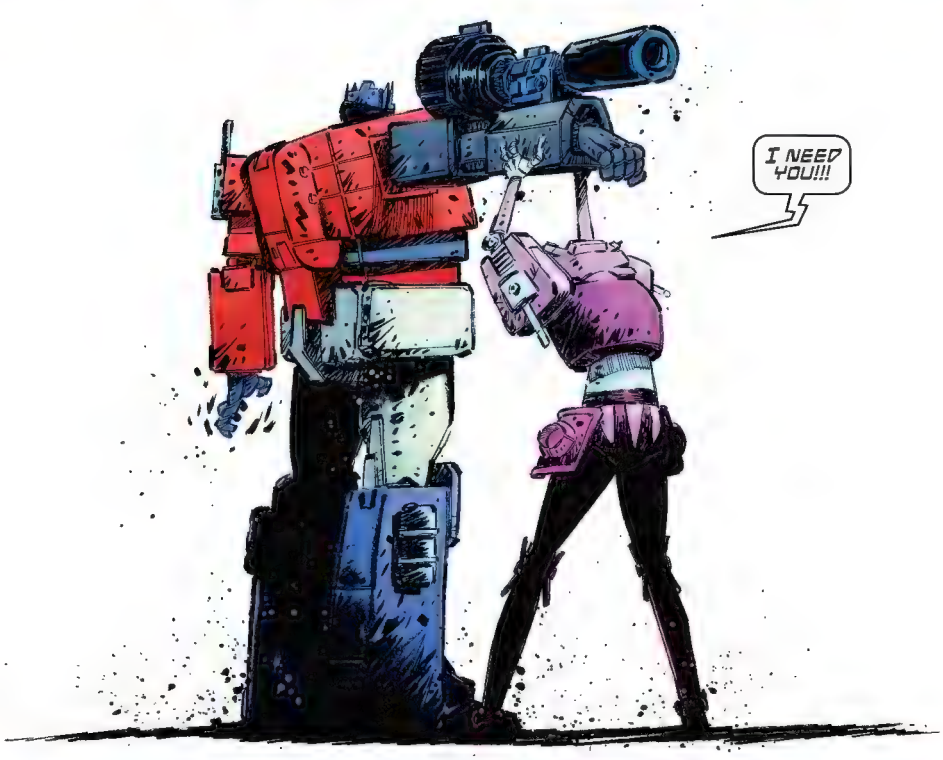

CLIFF?


ELITA--
WE NEED YOU HERE. THE AUTOBOT RESISTANCE NEEDS YOU. HERE.


ALL THIS ENERGON TAKEN...WE CAN USE IT. TOGETHER.


NO.
"NOT LIKE THIS."
KCHAK
DON'T BOTHER, OPTIMUS.
BEEP.
"I NEVER SET THE CHARGES IN THE FIRST PLACE."
THE EARTH HAS SO MUCH TO GIVE. LOOK AT ALL THE ENERGON WE HAVE ALREADY!
ENERGON TAKEN BY SHOCKWAVE. YOU'RE WILLING TO FEED CYBERTRON WITH THE BLOOD OF THEIR PLANET?
WHEN IT'S DYING OF THIRST, YES! YOU THINK I WANT THIS? YOU THINK I WANTED TO FORCE YOUR HAND?? SO MANY HAVE DIED, OPTIMUS! IT HAS TO MEAN SOMETHING.
THIS COULD BE THAT SOMETHING!

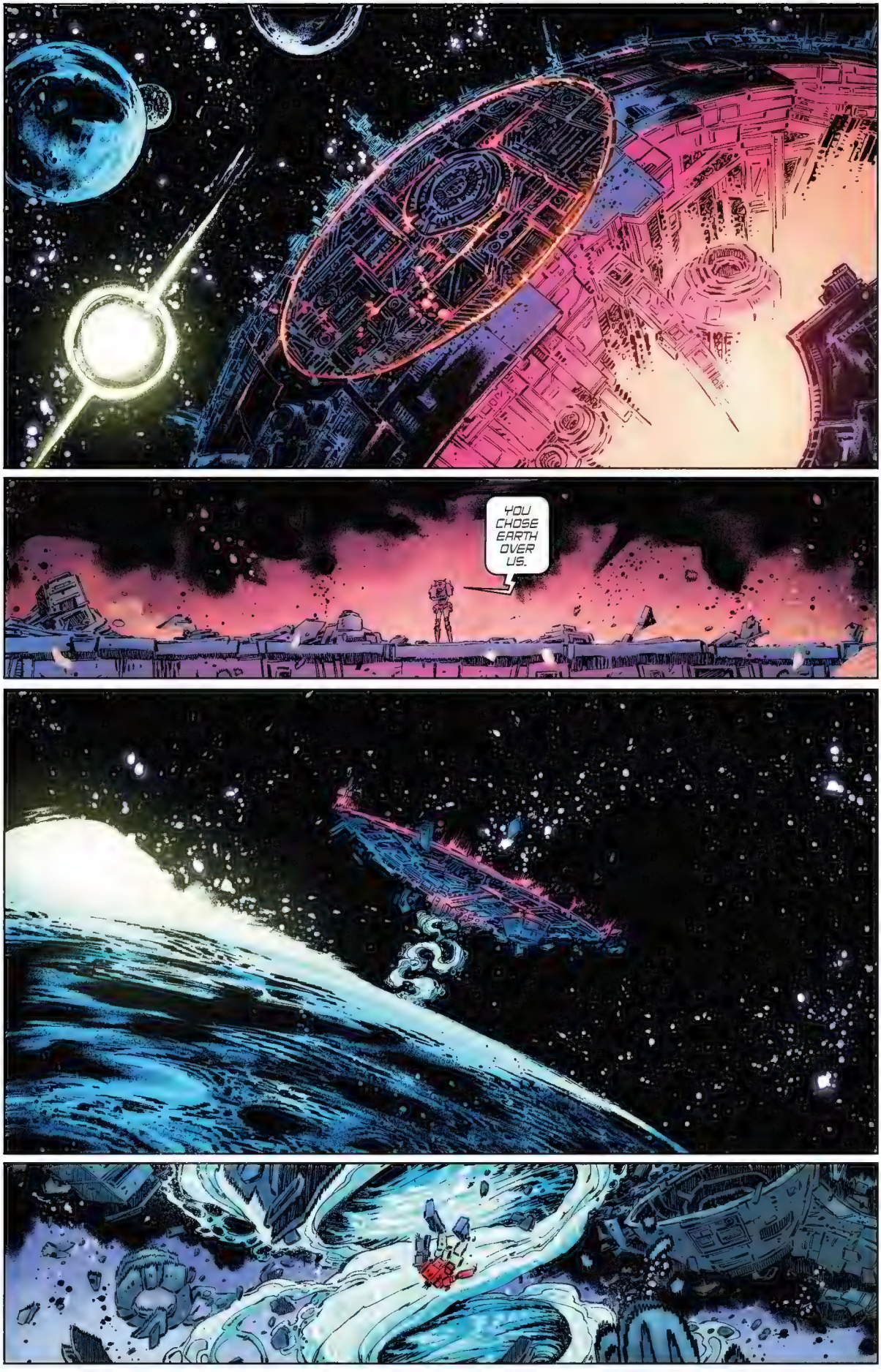

EARTH NEEDS ME. EARTH NEEDS US.
PLEASE! YOUR PEOPLE NEED YOU!!!

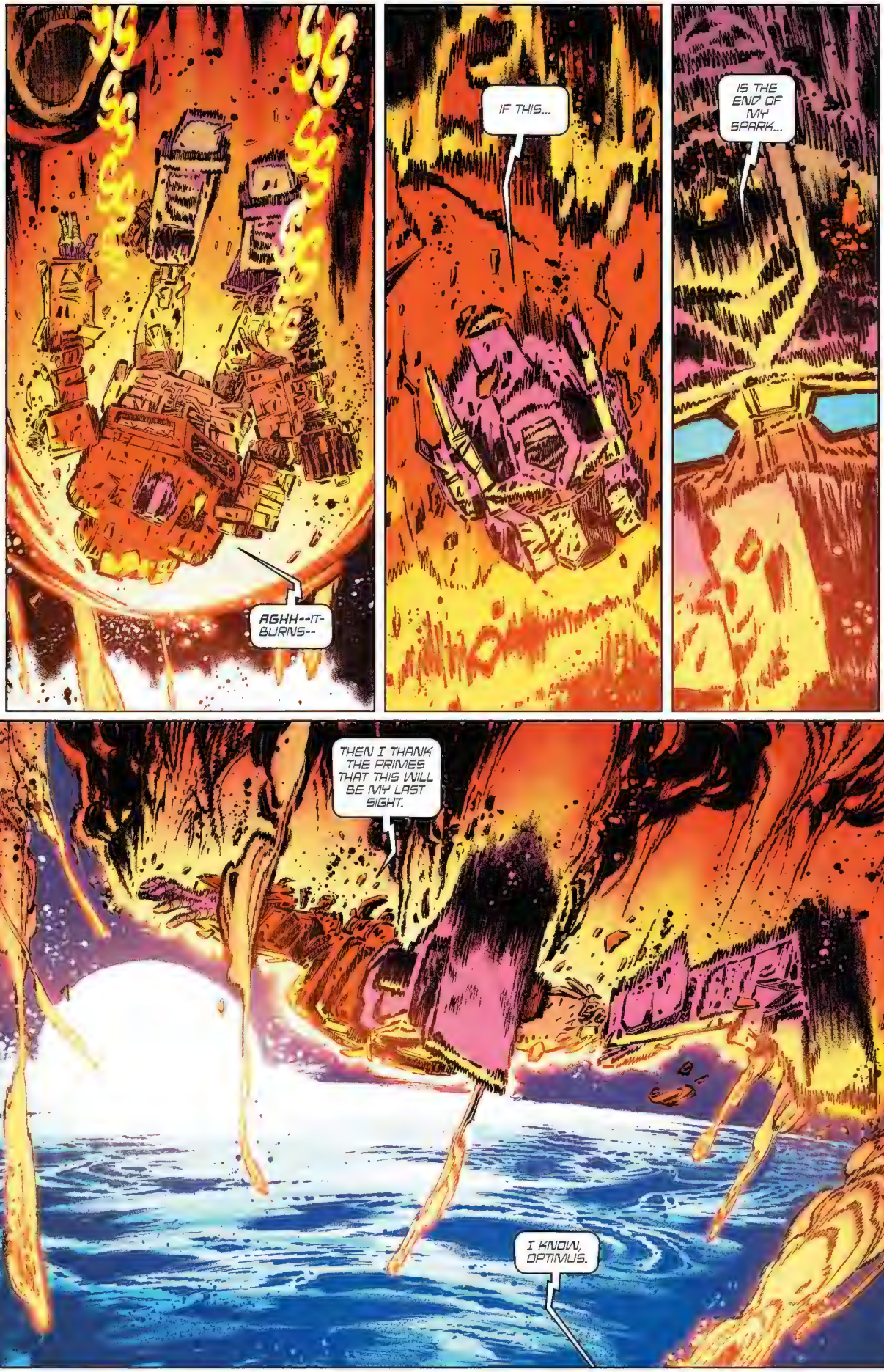

I NEED YOU!!!

I'M SORRY, ELITA.
DON'T ABANDON US AGAIN!!!

KRAKOOM

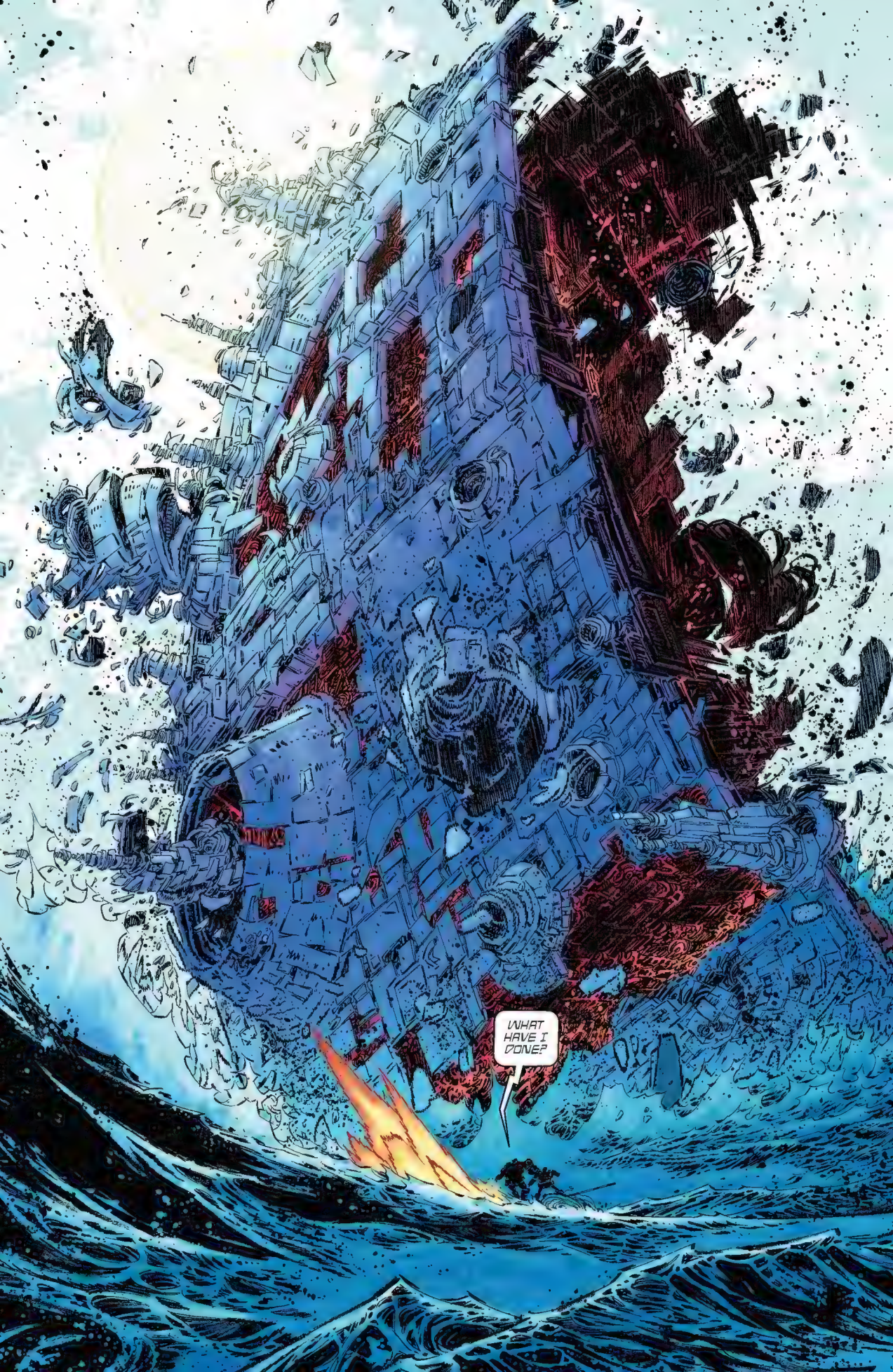
SHKKKKKKKK
GAH...
YOU CHOSE.


YOU CHOSE EARTH OVER US.


AGHH--IT-BURNS--
IF THIS...
IS THE END OF MY SPARK...
THEN I THANK THE PRIMES THAT THIS WILL BE MY LAST SIGHT.
I KNOW, OPTIMUS.

THIS PLACE REVEALS NEW BEAUTIES EVERY MOMENT.
BEACH... COMBER...?

WHAT HAVE I DONE?


WHAT HAVE I DONE?

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Editor Ben Abernathy reporting for duty and welcome to our triumphant final issue of Arc Two--and what an absolute BLOCKBUSTER. Or should I say "Multiple Eisner-winning BLOCKBUSTER?!" Congratulations to Dual-threat Daniel for bringing home two awards for "Best Writer/Artist" and "Best Continuing Series".

Whoah! I can hardly believe it! Double Eisner win? I'm absolutely blown away. I gotta give credit where it's due though, so I want to thank the entire team at Skybound for helping me make this book, especially Mike Spicer and Rus Wooton, who've been amazing through the whole process. Thanks to Jorge, Ben, Sean and Robert as well, and all the people behind the scenes who keep the Transformers cogs in constant motion. CRAZYYYY.

Hello Transformers team,

I have been wanting to write this letter for several months now but have really been looking for the right words. I grew up with Transformers and have been a fan ever since I first watched them back in 1984. To be honest, when I first heard Transformers were getting a new comic I was very skeptical and had little hope that it would be good, but I figured I'd pick up the first issue just to see anyway. After reading that issue and getting to the back and reading DWJ's story about losing the fists on his G1 Optimus Prime toy right after he got it, I was sold. As a lifelong Transformers fan I want to say that Daniel Warren Johnson GETS Optimus Prime. He is "strong enough to be gentle." I want to say thank you to the whole team, Daniel Warren Johnson, Jorge Corona, Mike Spicer, Rus Wooton, and everyone else at Skybound, but I would like to add a special thank you to DWJ for bringing a tear to the eye of this OG Transformer fan several times while reading some of the greatest lines Optimus Prime has ever spoken

Thank you
Russell

Hey Russell. Thank you for your heartfelt letter. All I can say is all the parts of Optimus you highlighted come from spending my own time with the character. I'm first and foremost a fan of TF, and that's the first thing I try and bring to the table when making stories for other Transformers fans. Still going strong and happy to have you on board!

Hi Transformers crew!

I love what everyone is doing, DWJ continues to kill it and Jorge Corona just always gives us outstanding art work. Just a few questions

Just really quick: You're so right! Jorge is amazing! Just had to pipe in and say that.

Are we gonna see the Dinobots anytime soon?

Can't say, sorry!!!

Are there gonna be original creations of Transformers for this universe or will you guys only be focusing on legacy characters?

We're focusing a lot of our efforts on the legacy characters at the moment but an original Transformer? Hmm…that's a good idea…

Heheheh

[illegible] the Autobots ever gonna catch a break?

NO :)

Keep on killing it Whatever week Transformers comes out makes it a good week for me. Thank you for making this amazing comic. I'm always recommending it to people I know

Best wishes
Noah Marek

Thank you, Noah!

Bah weep granaw weep ninny bong!

Whoah! The universal greeting??? Salutations, my friend!

Howdy Transformers team! After reading nine (ten counting the fcbd issue) issues of this incredible new series, I can safely say it is the best comic I've ever read! (Although I am also a child with ADHD so that isn't saying a TON but my dad, who is obsessed with comics and fingering endlessly through dollar bins also loves it!) The amount of care that goes into each issue is stellar! The story is gripping and scribed to perfection by Mr Johnson, Sultan of the Suplex. The art is no different, masterfully drawn by Mr. Corona! (I especially like how the smaller bots like Cliff and Jazz are being drawn) I just have a "few" questions regarding the series

1. Are Rumble's arms permanently in pile driver mode or can he change them to normal arms

I think you'll get your answer soon enough!

2. If you bring in the Insecticons, can you include the Deluxe Insecticons? Y'know Venom, Ransack, Barrage, and Chop Shop? I know they weren't in the cartoon but Barrage was in an episode of Family Guy one time! (No seriously) That counts right? RIGHT???

Look I love the Insecticons, but dang there are a LOT of Cybertronians to get through! I will take your request into consideration!

[illegible] Brawn a goner? I know he got shot

point blank by Megatron in the fcbd issue but I remain hopeful!

Brawn is out of our tale for the time being. Never say never, but yeah, he's pretty dead.

4. Why did Huffer, Warpath, Vortex, Brawl, and Ratchet (I think he's dead noooo) have to get the boot?? I get Kup because it was to hit the heart strings a bit but Huffer? Warpath? Ratchet? And why kill Vortex or Brawl? Blast Off is incredibly boring! Kill him off instead!!! (Most of this is supposed to be a joke. This is your comic not mine and you need to make decisions so I get it!)

Mostly it's me trying to thin out the cast! I don't want things to get too unwieldy, so I have a tendency to keep the characters down to the bare minimum. That won't be forever, though, and you might be surprised who turns up in arc 3…

5. LET JETFIRE BREATH FOR A SEC! The poor guy JUST got brought back!

I know right? The poor dude. I am so mean…

Thanks for bringing me a stupendous comic to read every month!! I can't wait to pick up a copy of issue 10 at Legends Comics in Littleton, MA! Can't wait to see if this gets printed and sorry if any of my questions are already answered!

Till All Are One!
Harry Sapp, from the very towny town of Chelmsford, Ma

Thanks Harry! Also, I grew up in MA! Go Sox!

Bah-Weep-Graaaaagnah weep ni ni bong!

ANOTHER ONE! WORLD PEACE, HERE WE COME!

Ever since I was little I've loved the Transformers. The characters, the toys, and the comics have all been such a big part of my life. It's something me and my dad have bonded over for years.

I'm heading off to college soon with hopes of becoming a comic book artist in the future. I just wanted to say that this comic's art style and story is such an inspiration to me. It reminded me of all the things I want to be and everything I want to bring into the world someday

Thank you for making me smile with every panel. (Although I will not forgive you for killing Bumblebee.)

(I'm sending you my therapy bill.)

Emmie

Thank you for supporting our series, Emmie, and writing in! It's really exciting to hear that you're off to college soon with an eye toward becoming a professional comic book artist--amazing! I hope to read a book of yours one day soon.

Emmie, I can't help you with a therapy bill, but bug me at a con someday and I'll buy you a coffee! Good luck on your journey, keep your head up, and never stop making things, no matter what. I'm so excited for you!

Hello team!

Just wanted to say you guys are doing an awesome job on the Transformers! And wow, Shockwave is completely nuts! I'm seriously looking forward to when Megatron shows up and has a showdown with Shockwave. At this point we almost need Megatron to show up to bring some sanity back to the Decepticons.

He's so fun to write! I'm definitely leaning more into the wild with his personality, just so I can have some differentiation between all these dastardly characters!

I've been a fan of the Transformers, comic and cartoon, since the early 80s. I was in grade school at the time growing up in Fargo, ND. My friend Don and I got a subscription to the comic series. I remember our first issue we received was issue #29 featuring the Scraplets. I would love to see them show up in the Energon universe, too. Anyway, I am almost 49 now and I am still friends with Don who I've known since kindergarten. And we still talk almost every day. He is also currently reading this Transformers series on a monthly basis. So we still like to talk about each issue just like we did back in 3rd grade in the 80s. Thanks for bringing an awesome Transformers series back into our lives. And keep up the good work

Dan
Sartell, MN

Thanks for writing in, Dan, and it's pretty awesome that you and Don have enjoyed a lifetime of Transformers material together

Dan! Great name! And so fun that you're still using the mighty Cybertronians to connect with people in the real world. I can't think of a better way to enjoy amazing design, characters, and stories than with a loved one. It's truly an honor to be part of your life in that small way. I don't take it lightly and I thank you for sharing that with me.

And that's a wrap for this month's Matrix of Lettership. We always love hearing from anyone, so keep the letter's coming…and be good to each other!

--Ben

I think this issue came out so awesome. It's tough sometimes to believe that my mess of story notes and ideas will pan out to a full fledged story, but I put one foot in front of the other, and with my Editor's help (Thank you, Ben!), step by step I pieced it together (whwew!). Thanks Jorge for slaying this entire arc. I am BLOWN AWAY by his work, and I'm so excited to show you all where we go from here. PREPARE THYSELF!!!!!

--DWJ

THE POWER OF ULTRAMEGA RETURNS!

Writer/artist **JAMES HARREN** *(Rumble, BPRD)* and **DAVE STEWART** *(Hellboy)* present the next chapter of the Eisner Award-nominated kaiju series that rocked comics!

ULTRAMEGA™

JAMES HARREN **DAVE STEWART**

ISSUE #5 AVAILABLE NOW

CATCH UP ON ULTRAMEGA!

VOL. 1: STAND WITH HUMANITY

AVAILABLE NOW!

ULTRAMEGA © 2024 SKYBOUND LLC. SKYBOUND AND ALL RELATED IMAGES ARE OWNED BY SKYBOUND, LLC. IMAGE COMICS AND ALL RELATED IMAGES ARE OWNED BY IMAGE COMICS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

THE BIGGEST COMIC BOOK
OF THE DECADE IS HERE

G.I. JOE

The chart-topping Energon Universe team of **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** and **TOM REILLY** will change everything you think you know about G.I. Joe!

WELCOME TO THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

ISSUE #1 AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 2024

G.I. JOE, TRANSFORMERS, and HASBRO and all related trademarks and logos are trademarks of Hasbro, Inc. ©2024 Hasbro. SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC. IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

Licensed by:

EXPERIENCE THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

DON'T MISS THE EPIC IN THE MAKING!

Superstar creator **DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON**, alongside showrunner **ROBERT KIRKMAN**, reimagines **HASBRO'S ROBOTS IN DISGUISE** for a brand-new generation!

"If you've always wanted to dive into reading the **TRANSFORMERS** comics, there may never be a better time than right now."
– **IGN**

TRANSFORMERS VOL. 1 AVAILABLE NOW

VOID RIVALS VOL. 1
By Robert Kirkman and Lorenzo de Felici
AVAILABLE NOW

DUKE VOL. 1
By Joshua Williamson and Tom Reilly
AVAILABLE NOW

COBRA COMMANDER VOL. 1
By Joshua Williamson and Andrea Milana
AVAILABLE NOW

G.I. JOE, TRANSFORMERS, VOID RIVALS, and HASBRO and all related trademarks and logos are trademarks of Hasbro, Inc. ©2024 Hasbro. SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC. IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

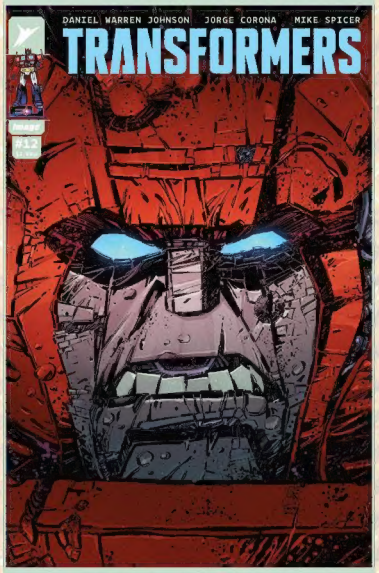
For Foreign Licensing information, please contact foreignlicensing@skybound.com

COLLECT ALL THESE EXCITING ENERGON UNIVERSE COVERS

COVER A

DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON & MIKE SPICER

COVER B



JORGE CORONA & MIKE SPICER

COVER C

KAREN S. DARBOE

COVER D

CHRIS STEVENS

COVER E

CORY WALKER

AVAILABLE NOW WHEREVER COMICS ARE SOLD

TRANSFORMERS and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2024 Hasbro. All rights reserved. SKYBOUND and all related images are owned by Skybound, LLC. IMAGE COMICS and all related images are owned by Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.